

# Why 8000 people "PASS UP" Washington as a Residence

AND FORM THE ARMY OF COMMUTERS THAT MARCHES ON THE CITY EVERY DAY FROM 6 TO 10 A.M.

FROM the din of the traffic of the city's streets to the peace and quiet of the country, from mere existence between brick walls to the freedom and sunshine of the suburbs—each year Washington's colony of suburbanites increases until now it has become a veritable army of commuters.

From 6 to 10 in the morning incoming trains are laden with this vast throng, who have business interests in Washington but prefer to live in the open of the country. Outside of the District there are 6,000 people who come to Washington daily to attend to business. Added to this are 2,000 suburbanites who live outside the city limits, but within the bounds of the District, making a total of 8,000.

Then, too, Baltimore is in a sense a suburb of Washington, and the Monumental City adds daily 300 to the business population of the Nation's Capital. Those, however, who live in Baltimore are not Washingtonians who have gone there to seek a residence. In every conception of the word they are Baltimoreans, who have obtained positions here, in the Government and otherwise, who are loth to give up their home ties. True it is that in Baltimore rent is cheaper, provisions, clothing, etc., can be obtained for less. The difference is about 15 per cent less than in Washington, and people who live in this manner say that this about balances the \$15.46 monthly commutation where a man has a family to provide for.

## Alexandria the Largest "Suburb."

But, assert the Baltimoreans, economy is not the prime factor for living in Maryland. There is a loyalty that all true Baltimoreans have for their native city that is akin to the loyalty Virginians hold for the Old Dominion, and more than ordinary inducements are necessary for them to give up the city of their birth.

Alexandria is the largest "genuine" suburb of Washington, but Alexandria does not take kindly to being called a suburb. The people there tell you that Alexandria was a city when Washington was in its infancy, that it has been ever since, and is today a city in itself, separate and distinct from the National Capital. Yet Alexandria's contribution to Washington's working force is between six and seven hundred. Many of the employees of the general offices of the Southern railway live in the Virginia city, and as the cost of living there is somewhat less than here, and the railroad company furnishes them transportation gratis, the saving is considerable. Also many Government clerks make their home across the Potomac, and their monthly tribute to either the railroad company or the electric line is \$4.05, or \$48.60 a year.

All the way from Alexandria to Washington there are small towns or settlements on the Washington, Alexandria, and Mt. Vernon railway. The head of the families in these communities are nearly all Government clerks, or employed by local business firms.

## All the Way From Laurel.

Maryland's "metropolitan suburb" is Hyattsville, but for many this is not far enough from the hustle and bustle of the city, and all the way to Laurel are settlements of commuters. Each morning the cars of the City and Suburban line are so packed that those who live so close to the District as Mt. Rainier, for instance, have learned with regret the value of seats on incoming cars.

Comparatively the cost of living outside of Washington is in no sense less than within the District's bounds, unless one chooses to go as far as Alexandria, Hyattsville, or other places equally as far out. The cost of staple provisions in those towns is about the same, but rent is materially lower.

However, the suburbanite of Washington is not a bargain seeker.

er, and in nearly every case those who go outside the city to live are men with families, who want their children to grow up healthy, to have a place to play, plenty of fresh air, and to keep them off the city streets. In several of the suburbs rent is proportionally as high as in the city, provisions must be purchased here, and the added car fare brings the actual cost equal, and, in some cases, higher, than living in the city proper would be.

Compared with other large cities, Washington is not a city of suburbs. Despite the fact that the continual cry is that the cost of

living here is higher than in other cities, the conditions do not demand that the workingman must go out somewhere to live within his income. In the Northeast and Southeast sections, and some parts of the Northwest, he can live just as cheaply and just as comfortably as he can somewhere across the District line.

## Suburbanites Are Increasing.

One real estate dealer, who has made a specialty of suburban property, says, in discussing the subject:

"The increase in the demand for the character of property which I handle has increased during the last two years way beyond my expectations. I have made a specialty of selling lots and building houses on the easy payment plan, and the number of people who are continu-

ally going outside of the city to make their homes has surprised even the initiated. I build houses for as low as \$100 cash, and \$20 a month. This in many cases is cheaper than paying rent, although many brokers sell under the same conditions in the city.

"It seems to me the reason that so many people go to the suburbs is not so much for what they save in living as to have a home with a yard around it. My clients are mostly men with families, who want a place for their children to play. They seem to like to have a small garden, but as most of them are very much amateur farmers they spend more money raising vegetables, etc., than they would if they bought them from the market.

"They get an unlimited amount of pleasure, however, tilling a few square yards of soil, and, of course, the returns they get in health and enjoyment are not to be compared with the money it costs. Then the idea of buying a home for the same amount as they would pay out in rent appeals strongly, and they don't mind in the least getting up at daylight and having a late dinner in

consequence. Lots in several of my subdivisions sell for as cheap as \$250, and I will build a cozy frame house from \$3,000 up to whatever they want to invest."

Although the railway companies and street car lines do not advertise suburban service extensively, special provisions for the commuters are made by all the companies. On both

the Baltimore and Ohio and the Pennsylvania extra trains leave Baltimore in the morning, stopping at all way stations to take on passengers. The street car lines run on a closer schedule, and where a ten or fifteen minute service is in vogue



come under the latter classification. To live in these places, however, is no saving to the pocketbook, for the cost of living is equally as high as

in Washington. In these places there are building restrictions that must be adhered to, and lots alone cost from \$1,000 up to \$3,000.

These, of course, are not truly the suburbs. They are not the homes of the workers as are the little towns of Maryland and Virginia. In these places is the real "boom" of suburban realty. Here the real growth of the color is asserting itself, the real army of workers is living—the people who are and will continue to be one of the greatest factors in the District's industrial growth and development.

## FALLACIES REGARDING ART OF SWIMMING

PERHAPS there is no sport in Washington which is indulged in by more people than swimming. And probably no other form of exercise has more superstitions and false impressions connected with it.

A man who has an international reputation as a swimmer has taken pains to correct some of these fallacies. The most widely accepted of these wrong ideas is that many people are overcome by cramp while swimming and are drowned in consequence. As a matter of fact there is only one form of cramp that is fatal to the swimmer, and that is cramp in the stomach, which is exceedingly rare. This cramp is the result of acidity of the bowels, which is brought about by a bad stomach. This affects the muscles, renders the person powerless and causes him to sink. Cramp in the limbs is frequent, but not necessarily dangerous. When a swimmer is attacked by such local cramps he will not sink at once, but will struggle desperately and call out. Of course, these cramps are painful, but they last but a short time, and can be worked off if the swimmer will stand the pain for a time.

Mysterious drownings are almost always due to apoplexy or heart disease. Persons affected with heart trouble, especially valvular affections, are liable to sudden death on receiving a shock of any sort, and such a shock may be the sudden plunge into cold water. Or it may be that a man is swimming on a hot day with his head exposed to the sun while his body is submerged and at a lower temperature. The breast strokes used require the head to be at right angles to the body, and the stroke acts as a pumping process to force the blood to the head. This helps to surcharge the arteries of the head, which has already been begun by the contraction of the arteries in the other portions of the body by the lower temperature of the

water. These conditions are apt to bring on a violent headache, followed by insensibility, when the body sinks, strangulation takes place and death follows. Another great source of danger is the erroneous idea that the body should be allowed to cool off before going into the water. On the contrary, one should never enter the water when moist with perspiration unless the body is in a glow, and if it is not already one in that condition. But one should never go into the water when overheated or suffering from extreme exhaustion or fatigue.

A peculiar physiological fact and one which has caused much interest among scientific men is that it is only in fiction that the man who is rescued from drowning feels a lasting and overwhelming sense of gratitude toward his rescuer. As a matter of fact, the rescued usually has a feeling amounting to antipathy for the one who has saved him. The psychologists explain this by saying that the person whose life was endangered is so filled with horror over the incident that he dislikes every feature connected with it, including even the thought of the rescuer.

Another exploded theory is that concerning rescuers who have first been obliged to "knock out" the drowning person, so that his struggles would not interfere with his rescue. The fact is that the greatest of pugilists could not perform that feat on a little child while both were in the water. Both persons being in a yielding substance which offers practically no resistance to the holder where the ear joins the jaw. Pressing there will involuntarily break the grip on your hand or leg to put his hand to the source of the pain.

## THOSE WHO HAVE ANSWERED THE CALL OF THE SUBURBS

Eight thousand commuters on the steam and electric roads leading into Washington means:

Eight thousand families—easily 30,000 human beings—whose daily bread is earned in Washington, but who prefer to eat it in pleasanter surroundings.

Eight thousand breadwinners who are willing to put up with the inconveniences, the early rising, and the late dinners, in many instances the discomforts of inadequate transportation facilities, for the sake of air and space and room to grow.

Eight thousand wage-earners who are willing to spend from \$4 to \$16 per month of their hard-earned money on railway fares—say \$50,000 a month all told—for fresh air and green grass for their families, for the sake of homes rather than houses, since even the real estate men admit that on the whole the suburbs are no cheaper than the city.

## Cost of Maintaining the Government's Big Guns

"WHEN a big gun is made it becomes a perpetual charge on the expense account of the Government," remarked the inspector of naval ordnance. "It costs a lot to make it, too, to try it when it is mounted, and its extreme limit of life is 100 shots. The largest guns we make now are 12-inch. They are from forty to fifty feet long, and the weight of the gun will cause it to droop, and in a few years render it useless. It has to be sent back to the ordnance yard at intervals to have its rifling 'trued up.' Even the toughest steel, with the highest elastic limit and greatest tensile strength, will bend under its own weight. If you support a bar of steel even a few inches long at both ends for a long time it will curve down in the center to a degree that cannot, indeed, be detected without the aid of precise instruments, but it will take a permanent set, and a gun does the same thing in a greater measure. When we try a gun at the Indian Head Proving Grounds, near Annapolis, Md., the armor makers furnish the plate, the gunmaker the gun, the shell-makers the projectile, and the Government the powder. The total cost of a shot is approximately \$1,000, and we usually fire three shots at different distances.

"The shell is case hardened at its point, and now carries a charge of oblong graphite in its nose, which breaks at the moment of impact and fills the hole in the armor. The patent on that graphite scheme cost the Government \$50,000. The shell simply bores its way through the armor, and its progress is aided very materially by the graphite. The navy expects armor that can't be pierced, and shells that will go through anything; so we have about arrived at the paradox of an irresistible force meeting an impenetrable body. As a result the few makers of this high quality of steel are now able to furnish from the plants constructed under the fostering care of the Government a much higher grade of steel to the trade than ever before. The tensile strength and the elastic limit of steel has been raised in the general market from 50,000 pounds a square inch to 75,000 or one and a half times to 115,000 pounds a square inch for the other within a few years, and this as an indirect result of the Government's exactions.

"It's very seldom a gun is fired after it is mounted. Gun pointers are used for drill, and once or twice a year the gun is used for actual target practice and fired once, or possibly twice. But it is too expensive a machine to use for practice when there are exact ways of testing the range and accuracy by triangulation and the known qualities of the powder and other factors that apply to it, and which are preserved from its first test."

## TOO KIND!

He assumes no superior air. He isn't stuck up—not a bit. To the hero that's around him he never have found him. At all stiff or proud, we admit. For we certainly wish to be fair.

He will talk in an affable way. To the humblest he happens to meet. There is nothing that's rigid, unbending or frigid. That savors at all of conceit. Just so much we can truthfully say.

No, his head's not too large for his hat. He's as common as you, or as I. I will make that emphatic—he's quite democratic.

In fact, just as pleasant as pie. There is no contradiction of that.

But he wishes it well understood. So he brags of the fact all the while. That he makes no pretension. The sweetest condescension. He shows makes the neighbors all smile. For we can't see at all why he should. —Chicago News.